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Item 6 (e) of the provisional agenda*

TOPONYMIC DATA FILES: NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

Gazetteer, Federal Republic of Germany; Supplementary Volume East

Paper submitted by Germany**

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* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

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1. In 1981 the Gazetteer, Federal Republic of Germany was published by the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie (IfAG). It was prepared according to the recommendations of the United Nations and contains additional information about features, such as dimensions and extent, traffic communications, etc.

2. After the unification of Germany in 1990, it became necessary to prepare for the short run, a supplementary volume embracing the five new Länder (federal states) and the eastern part of Berlin.

3. The supplementary volume correspond in form and content, essentially, to the introduction of the Gazetteer, Federal Republic of Germany, as described in the papers submitted to the Fourth Conference of the United Nations on the Standardization of Geographical Names (E/CONF.74/L.10) in 1982. This introduction refers to the old Länder of the former Federal Republic of Germany and the western part of Berlin (territory of the Federal Republic of Germany before 3 October 1990).

4. In the Supplementary Volume East the post codes as well as the Sorbian variant names, as used in the minority areas of the Sorbs in south-east Brandenburg and eastern Saxony, have been nearly adopted. At a later date post codes must also be entered with respect to populated places in the old Länder of the former Federal Republic of Germany.

5. The quantity of the geographical names to be adopted depends on the content of the General Map, 1:500,000 of the Combined Sheet North-East, which has been extended at IfAG to the Polish border. Beyond that are adopted all independent communes which, for reasons of cartographic clarity, could no longer be represented at the 1:500,000 scale.

6. Adoption of geographical features in the new Länder is done on the basis of Topographic Map, 1:200,000 of the former German Democratic Republic. Particulars that cannot be taken from this map scale are largely taken from official publications, as e.g. administrative feature codes, and population data relative to the communes on the official list of communes of the Statistisches Bundesamt (Federal Statistical Office), Branch Office "Berlin East". Particular functional features referring to populated places, as well as additional information about other geographical feature groups (e.g. lengths of rivers, surfaces of lakes, affiliation of landscapes to natural regions, official lists of the hydrographic codes etc.) are gathered from other official sources. Where these are still publications prepared by the former German Democratic Republic, they differ somewhat in method and also with regard to the geodetic bases of the material used for mapping the old Länder. For this reason, surveys by our own resources have, in part, to be made in order to be able to offer all necessary information, e.g. the centre coordinates of populated places, in a complete and adequate manner.

7. The Supplementary Volume East will be published in 1993. Whether the administrative reform can still be entered is not certain. When the supplementary volume becomes part of the Gazetteer, as is planned for a later date, the administrative reform applying to the new Länder as well as all changes that have occurred since 1981 in the old Länder will be included.